

# ***Induced Abortion***



# Induced Abortion

According to South Dakota Codified Law 34-23A-34 to 34-23A-45, physicians be required to submit to the Department of Health the Report of Induced Abortion forms a Voluntary and Informed Consent Form for all abortions, and a Parental Notice Form where applicable. These forms can be seen in the Appendix A on pages 226-228.

## An Overview: 2003

Total Induced Abortions Performed in South Dakota	819
Total Induced Abortions Performed in South Dakota on South Dakota Residents	680

## Patient Information

There were 819 abortions performed in South Dakota in 2003, down from the 826 abortions performed in 2002. Of the 819 abortions performed in South Dakota, 680 or 83 percent were

performed on South Dakota residents, the same percentage as in 2002. Table 39, below, provides the residence and age breakdown for the abortions performed in South Dakota.

**Table 39**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Patient's State of Residence and Age, 2003**

	Total	AGE OF PATIENT					
		0-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35 +
Number	819	66	103	286	162	105	97
Percent	100	8.1	12.6	34.9	19.8	12.8	11.8
<b><u>State of Residence</u></b>							
South Dakota	680	50	84	239	138	89	80
Minnesota	74	7	10	24	18	6	9
Iowa	46	9	7	15	4	7	4
Other	19	*	*	8	*	3	4

Note: \*Cells with less than 3 events.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

**Table 40**  
**South Dakota Resident Induced Abortions Occurring in South**  
**Dakota by Patient's Resident County, 2003**

County	Induced Abortions	County	Induced Abortions
Aurora	---	Hyde	---
Beadle	---	Jackson	---
Bennett	---	Jerauld	---
Bon Homme	---	Jones	---
Brookings	36	Kingsbury	---
Brown	15	Lake	---
Brule	---	Lawrence	13
Buffalo	---	Lincoln	29
Butte	---	Lyman	---
Campbell	---	McCook	---
Charles Mix	---	McPherson	---
Clark	---	Marshall	---
Clay	14	Meade	10
Codington	18	Mellette	---
Corson	---	Miner	---
Custer	---	Minnehaha	279
Davison	18	Moody	---
Day	---	Pennington	97
Deuel	---	Perkins	---
Dewey	---	Potter	---
Douglas	---	Roberts	---
Edmunds	---	Sanborn	---
Fall River	---	Shannon	---
Faulk	---	Spink	---
Grant	---	Stanley	---
Gregory	---	Sully	---
Haakon	---	Todd	16
Hamlin	---	Tripp	---
Hand	---	Turner	---
Hanson	---	Union	---
Harding	---	Walworth	---
Hughes	---	Yankton	18
Hutchinson	---	Ziebach	---

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

**Table 41**  
**South Dakota Resident Induced**  
**Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Patient's Resident City, 2003**

Resident City	Number
Aberdeen	15
Brandon	12
Brookings	31
Mission	11
Mitchell	18
Rapid City	85
Sioux Falls	264
Spearfish	10
Vermillion	14
Watertown	18
Yankton	16
All Other	186
<b>Total</b>	<b>680</b>

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Table 40, above, shows the breakdown of abortions by county of residence and Table 41, at right, shows the breakdown of abortions by city for 2003.

**NOTE: To protect the privacy of the patient, only counties or cities with at least 10 events are included in each table.**

Table 42, below, indicates that women age 20-24 comprise the largest percentage of the induced abortions performed in South Dakota with 34.9 percent of the abortions. Women ages 25-29 comprise the next largest percent with 19.8 percent of abortions in South Dakota. This is also true for South Dakota residents where women age 20-24 received 35.1 percent and

women ages 25-29 received 20.3 percent of the induced abortions performed in South Dakota to South Dakota residents.

Table 43, below, indicates that of the abortions that occurred in South Dakota, 86.3 percent were white, while 7.7 percent were American Indian.

**Table 42**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Age and**  
**South Dakota Resident Induced Abortions by Age, 2003**

Patient's Age	Occurring in South Dakota		South Dakota Residents	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
< 15	7	0.9	6	0.9
15-17	59	7.2	44	6.5
18 – 19	103	12.6	84	12.3
20 – 24	286	34.9	239	35.1
25 – 29	162	19.8	138	20.3
30 – 34	105	12.8	89	13.1
35 – 39	79	9.6	68	10.0
40 +	18	2.2	12	1.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

**Table 43**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Patient's Age and Race, 2003**

Patient's Age	Total	Patients' Race		
		White	American Indian	Other
<b>Number</b>	819	707	63	48
<b>Percent</b>	100.0	86.3	7.7	5.9
<b>&lt;= 14</b>	*	*	*	*
<b>15-17</b>	*	*	*	*
<b>18-19</b>	*	*	*	*
<b>20-24</b>	*	*	*	*
<b>25-29</b>	*	*	*	*
<b>30-34</b>	*	*	*	*
<b>35-39</b>	*	*	*	*
<b>40 +</b>	*	*	*	*

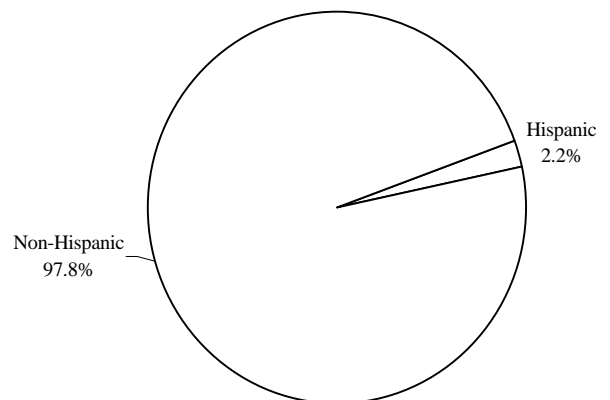
Note: \*As a result of Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act, race was only reported in the aggregate. Failure of the races to add to the total is due to unknown races.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Figure 12, at the right, illustrates that most of the women (97.8 percent) were not of Hispanic origin.

Table 44, below, shows the education and marital status of the induced abortion patients. Considering education, 265 or 32.4 percent of the 819 patients who received induced abortions in South Dakota reported their highest level of education completed was high school. This year marital status is not available as a result of the Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act.

**Figure 12**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Ethnicity of Patient, 2003**



Source: South Dakota Department of Health

**Table 44**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Patient's Education and Marital Status, 2003**

	Total	Marital Status		
		Not Married	Married	Not Stated
<b>Total</b>	<b>819</b>	*	*	*
<b>Education of Patient</b>				
Did Not Graduate High School	115	*	*	*
High School Graduate	265	*	*	*
Completed Some College or Attended Vocational School	238	*	*	*
College Graduate	95	*	*	*
Graduate School or Higher	27	*	*	*
Not Stated	79	*	*	*

Note: \*As a result of Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act, marital status was only reported as aggregate data.  
Source: South Dakota Department of Health

### Payment Information

The Report of Induced Abortion forms asks questions about how much the abortion cost and who paid for the abortion. Table 45, on the next page, indicates that in 2003, 92.4 percent of all abortions performed in South Dakota were self-pay while seven

percent were paid by private insurance and 0.5 percent were paid by public health plans. Of the 61 abortions paid by private insurance or a public health plan, 60 were paid by a fee-for-service insurance company.

**Table 45**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Payment and Insurance Coverage Type, 2003**

Payment Source	Total	Fee-for-service Insurance Co.	Managed Care Company	Other	Not Stated
Private Insurance	57	56	*	*	*
Public Health Plan	4	4	*	*	*
Self	757	*	*	*	757
Not Stated	*	*	*	*	*
Total	819	60	*	*	759

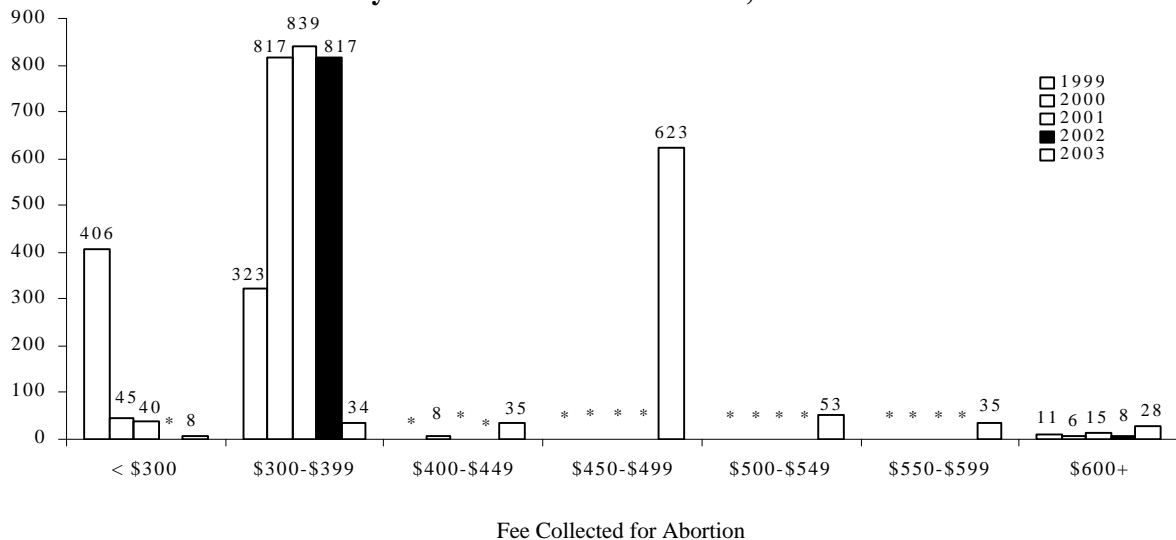
Note: \*Cells with less than 3 events.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

The fees collected for induced abortions were clarified in 2003 to include all services related in any manner to the induced abortion. Therefore, this year 76 percent of the abortions cost between \$450 to \$499 dollars. No abortions from the previous four years fell into this fee range. The majority of abortions

from past years fell into the \$300 to \$399 range except in 1999 where most abortions cost less than \$300 dollars. Figure 13, below, compares the fees for 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003. This shows that the majority of the abortions performed in 2003 cost more than any previous year.

**Figure 13**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Fee Collected for Abortion, 1999-2003**



Note: \*Cells with less than 3 events.

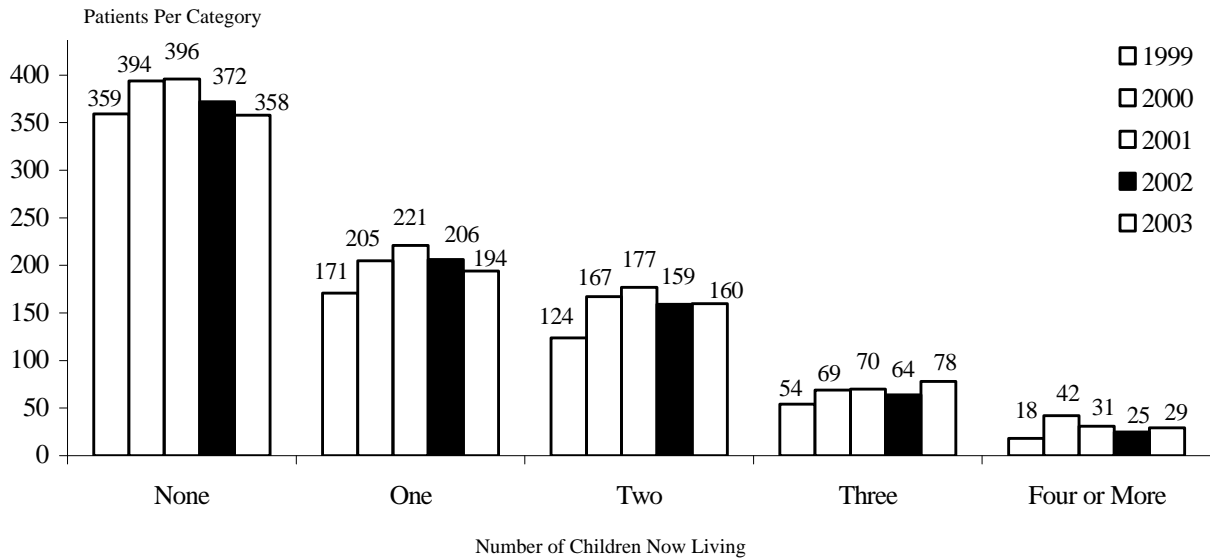
Source: South Dakota Department of Health

### Previous Pregnancies

The Report of Induced Abortion also asked a series of questions about previous pregnancies. Figure 14, on the next page, illustrates the number of children now living reported by the patients who received abortions

in South Dakota for 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003. Of the women reporting in 2003, 43.7 percent reported having no living children. Only 3.9 percent had one or more live births that are now deceased.

**Figure 14**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by the Number of**  
**Patient's Children Who are Now Living, 1999-2003**

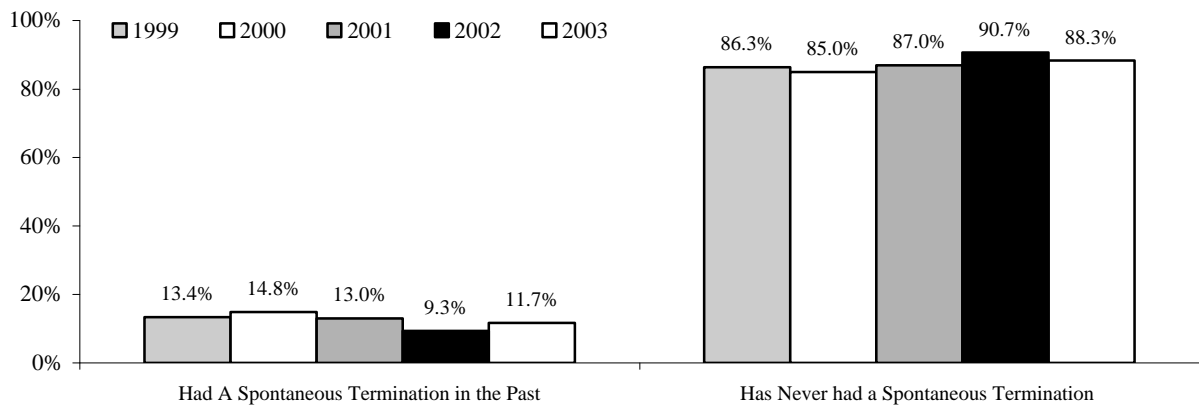


Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Figure 15, below, indicates that 11.7 percent of patients had a spontaneous termination in the past. For this report, a spontaneous abortion is defined as an abortion in which the process starts of

its own accord through natural causes. The majority of the patients (88.3 percent) who obtained induced abortions in 2003 reported they had never had a spontaneous termination.

**Figure 15**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by**  
**Previous Spontaneous Abortions, 1999-2003**

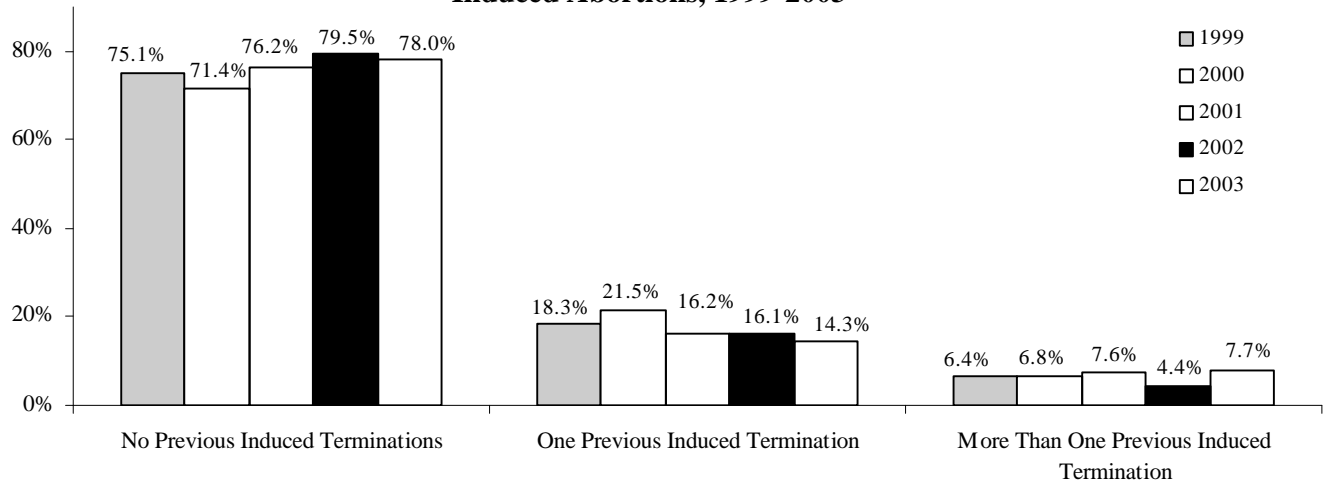


Note: Failure to add to 100% as a result of not stated.  
Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Figure 16, below, illustrates the number of previous induced abortions reported by the patients. For this report, an induced abortion is defined as the use of any means to intentionally terminate the

pregnancy of a female known to be pregnant with knowledge that the termination with those means will with reasonable likelihood, cause the death of the fetus.

**Figure 16**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Previous Induced Abortions, 1999-2003**



Note: Failure to add to 100% as a result of not stated.  
Source: South Dakota Department of Health

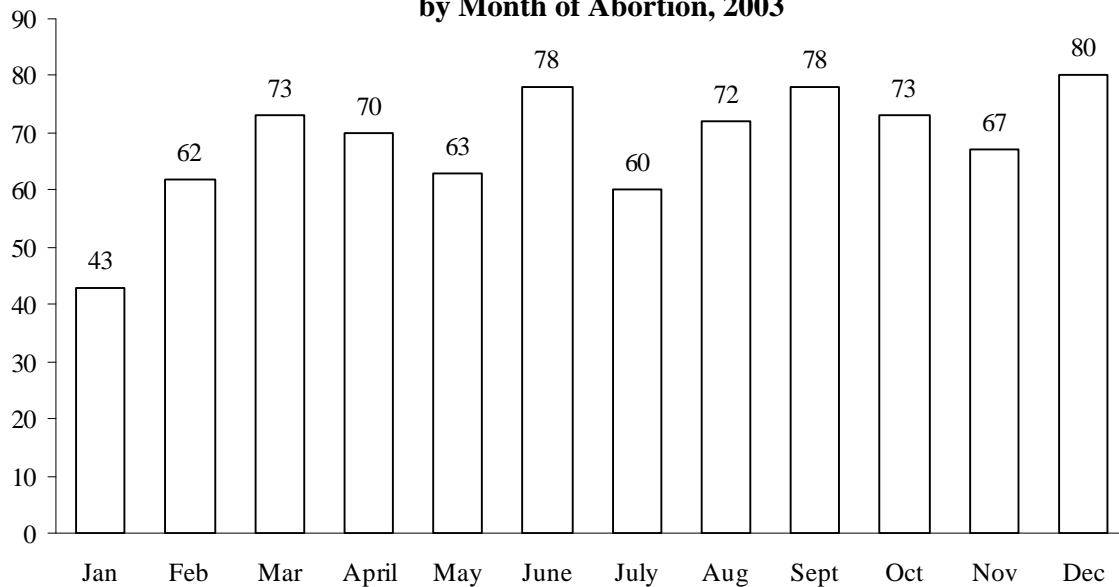
As seen in Figure 16, the majority of patients (78.0 percent) reported that they had no previous induced abortions. In comparison, 14.3 percent had obtained one previous induced abortion and 7.7 percent had obtained more than one previous induced abortion. In 2002, 16.1 percent had one previous induced abortion while, 4.4 percent had more than one previous induced abortion.

### Medical Information

The Report of Induced Abortion also asked a series of questions aimed at obtaining medical information. Figure 17, on the next page, lists the number of induced abortions performed in South Dakota during 2003 by month of occurrence. The fewest numbers of abortions were performed in January while the greatest occurred in December.



**Figure 17**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Month of Abortion, 2003**

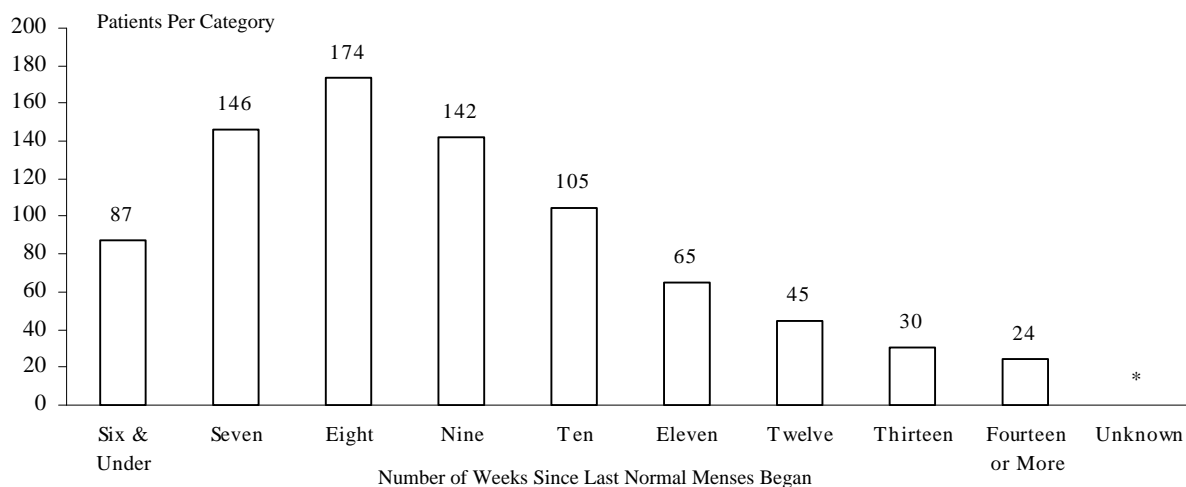


Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Figure 18, below, shows the number of weeks between the date the last normal menses began and the abortion date. Most of the patients (654) reported that

their last normal menses began within 10 weeks prior to the induced abortion date.

**Figure 18**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Number of Weeks Since Last Normal Menses Began, 2003**



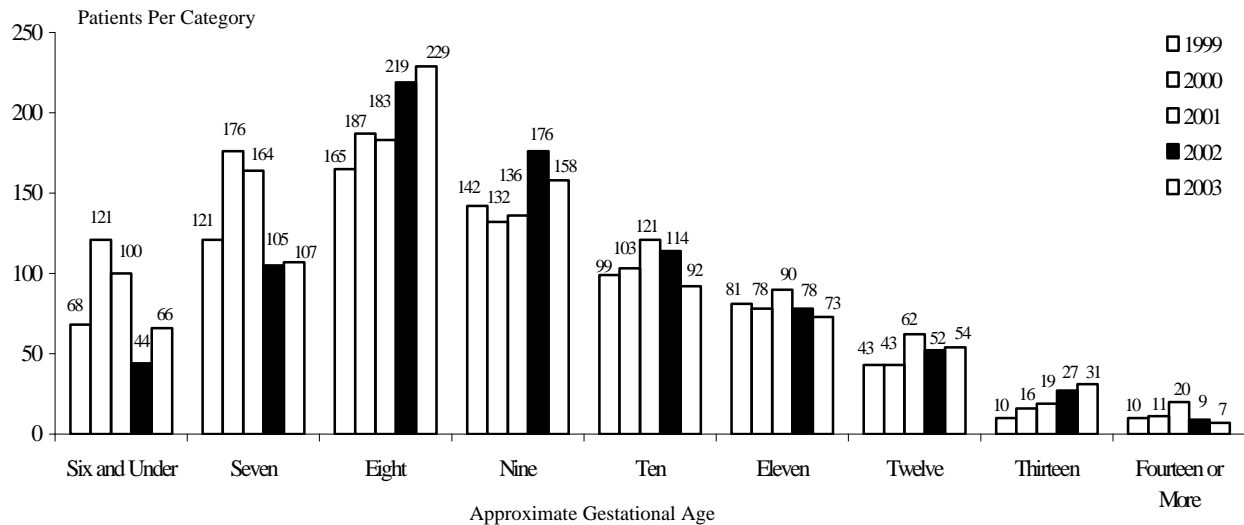
Note: \*Cells with less than 3 events.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Figure 19, below, shows the number of induced abortions occurring in South Dakota from 1999 to 2003 by the clinical estimated weeks of gestation.

The largest number of patients in 2003 (229) received abortions at eight weeks of estimated gestation.

**Figure 19**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Approximate Gestational Age, 1999-2003**

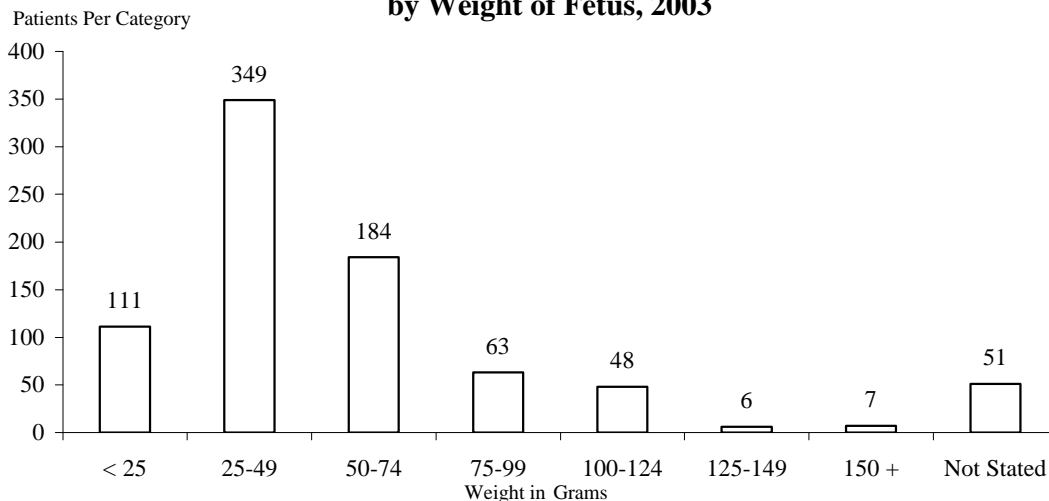


Note: Failure to add to total abortions as a result of not stated.  
Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Figure 20, below, lists the number of induced abortions occurring in South Dakota by the weight of the fetus. The category with the largest number of

occurrence was the 25 to 49 gram category. For comparison, fetuses in this category would weigh approximately .88 to 1.73 ounces.

**Figure 20**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Weight of Fetus, 2003**



Note: One gram equals approximately .0353 ounces.  
Or, one ounce equals approximately 28.35 grams.  
\*Cells with less than 3 events.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Table 46, right, illustrates the number of abortions that were performed with the knowledge that a fetal abnormality existed. Of the abortions performed in 2003, 6 or .7 percent of the forms indicated that there was a fetal abnormality present at the time of the abortion. Most of the forms indicated that it was unknown if a fetal abnormality was present at the time of the abortion.

**Table 46**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Fetal Abnormality, 2003**

Presence of Fetal Abnormality	Number	Percentage
Yes	6	0.7%
No/Unknown	813	99.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

**Table 47**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Method of Disposal, 1999-2003**

Method of Disposal	2003	2002-1999
Burial	4	10
Incineration or Cremation	775	3,261
Not Stated - Medical	29	47
Not Stated - Non-medical	11	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>3,338</b>

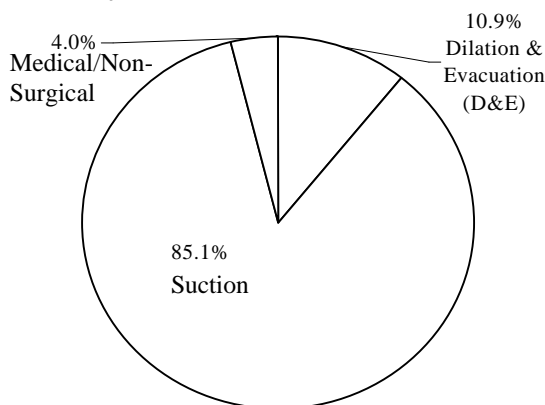
Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Table 47, left, indicates the method used to dispose of the fetus in 2003 and from 2002 to 1999. The main method of disposal in 2003 was incineration or cremation. This was also the main method for the past four years.

### Termination Procedure

The Report of Induced Abortion also asked questions about the termination procedure.

**Figure 21**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota by Procedure Used, 2003**



Note: Procedures used for Induced Abortions can change dramatically depending on the physician who performs them.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Figure 21 illustrates the procedures used to perform induced abortions in South Dakota in 2003.

In 2003, Medical/Non-Surgical was used for four percent of the cases while Dilation and Evacuation was used for 10.9 percent of the cases. The majority of the cases used Suction in 2003 with an overall percentage of 85.1.

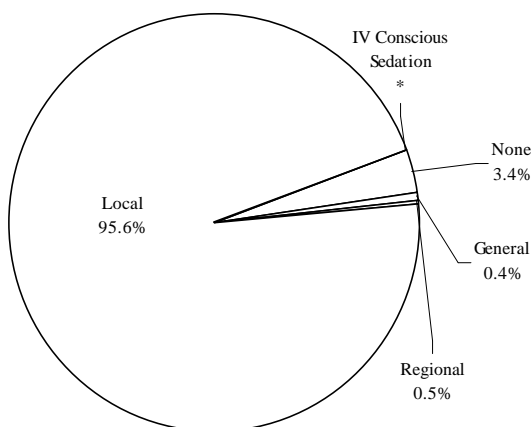
Table 48 indicates additional procedures that were used to terminate the pregnancy in 2003. Almost all abortions had an additional procedure. In 96 percent or 786 of the abortions an additional procedure was used to terminate the pregnancy. Sharp Curettage was the additional procedure most often used with 95 percent. There were no cases of maternal complications reported to the Department of Health in 2003.

**Table 48**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota By**  
**Any Additional Procedures Used, 2003**

Additional Procedures Used	Number	Percentage
No Additional Procedure	33	4.0%
Sharp Curettage	778	95.0%
Hysterotomy/Hysterectomy	3	0.4%
Other	5	0.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

**Figure 22**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Type of Anesthetic Used, 2003**



Note: \*Cells with less than 3 events.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Figure 22 illustrates the type of anesthetic used for abortions performed in South Dakota. In 2003, 95.6 percent of patients were given a local anesthetic while 0.4 percent were given a general anesthetic. Patients who received regional anesthetic made up 0.5 percent.

### Reason for the Induced Abortion

Since 1999, the Report of Induced Abortion has asked a question about the reason for the induced abortion. Table 49, on the next page, illustrates the reasons that patients had induced abortions from 1999 to 2003. The mother did not desire to have the child has been the highest response since 1999. The mother could not

afford the child has been the second highest response since 1999. There was also a 394.5 percent increase in the number of mothers who gave more than one response over the last five years. In 1999, 7.3 percent of mothers gave more than one response while in 2003 36.1 percent of mothers gave more than one response.

**Table 49**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Reason for Abortion, 1999-2003**

Reason for Induced Abortion	2003		2002		2001		2000		1999	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
The pregnancy was a result of rape or incest	21	2.6%	20	2.4%	14	1.6%	16	1.8%	12	1.6%
The mother could not afford the child	366	44.7%	384	46.5%	353	39.4%	233	26.5%	176	23.8%
The mother did not desire to have the child	525	64.1%	536	64.9%	547	61.1%	503	57.3%	459	62.1%
The mother's emotional health was at risk	104	12.7%	94	11.4%	84	9.4%	51	5.8%	28	3.8%
The mother would suffer substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function if the pregnancy continued	16	2.0%	16	1.9%	19	2.1%	9	1.0%	7	0.9%
Other	124	15.1%	103	12.5%	144	16.2%	139	15.8%	110	14.9%
Refused to answer	33	4.0%	27	3.3%	34	3.8%	41	4.7%	15	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1189</b>		<b>1180</b>		<b>1212</b>		<b>992</b>		<b>807</b>	

Note: The total responses are greater than the number of abortions performed because the patient was allowed to give more than one response.  
Failure to add to total as a result of unknowns.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

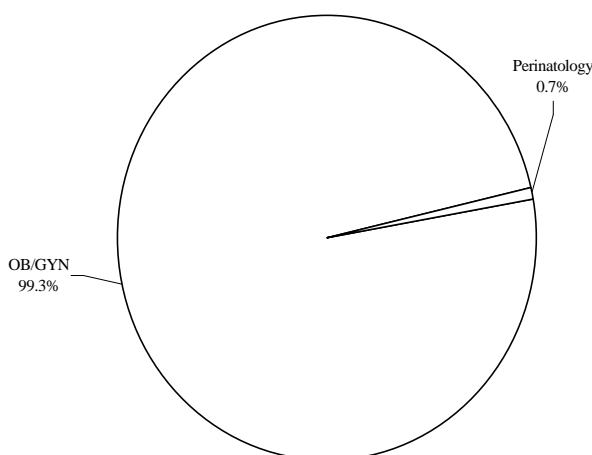
### Physician Information

Figure 23, illustrates the specialty of the physicians who performed abortions in South Dakota in 2003. Almost all abortions were performed by an OB/GYN. During the 2003 reporting period, none of the physicians who performed induced abortions in South Dakota had their license revoked or suspended or had been subject to other professional sanctions.

### Voluntary and Informed Consent Form

All the report forms received by the South Dakota Department of Health for induced abortions performed in 2003 indicated that patients received the required counseling. This refers to the counseling as required by South Dakota Codified Law 34-23A-10.

**Figure 23**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Physician's Specialty, 2003**



Source: South Dakota Department of Health

The Voluntary and Informed Consent Form is used to collect data regarding informed consent information supplied to abortion patients. The data showed that of the 819 forms received, 813 of the patients reported receiving the medical information described in SDCL section 34-23A-10.1 during a telephone conversation and 6 in person. Of the 819 forms that were received all indicated that the medical information was provided by the physician performing the induced abortion.

Physicians performing the abortion supplied five of the patients with the resource information, 814 patients reported receiving the data from an agent of the physician performing the abortion. Only 813 patients reported receiving the resource information by telephone and six reported receiving the information in person.

Table 50, below, illustrates the breakdown of who provided the resource material. None of the forms indicated the patient did not receive the medical or resource information due to a medical emergency or because a delay would have created a serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.

All of the 819 forms indicated that the patient was offered the printed fetal growth and development information described in SDCL section 34-23A-10.3, and of the 819, 814 did not accept the information. In regards to the patient obtaining the induced abortion, all the forms indicated that the patient went on to obtain the induced abortion.

**Table 50**  
**Induced Abortions Occurring in South Dakota**  
**by Source of Resource Information, 2003**

Resource Information Provided By:	Number	Percent
Referring Physician	*	*
Agent of Referring Physician	*	*
Physician Performing the Induced Abortion	5	0.6%
Agent of Physician Performing the Induced Abortion	814	99.2%
Physician Performing the Induced Abortion and an Agent of that Physician	*	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: The total responses are greater than the number of abortions performed because the patient was allowed to give more than one response.

\*Cells with less than 3 events.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

### Parental Notice

The Parental Consent Form is used to collect data regarding parental consent for minors obtaining induced abortions. The form asks a question about who is responsible for the minor patient. Of the 66 forms submitted, 60 indicated the person responsible for the minor patient was a parent, in six cases it was not stated, because the physician received a court order to perform the abortion.

The data showed that notice to a parent or guardian was provided to a parent in 60 of the cases. Of the remaining forms, six forms indicated the physician was authorized by the court to perform the induced abortion. In regards to the minor obtaining the induced abortion, all indicated the minor did obtain the abortion.